(d) In Orissa, out of total cultivated area of 79.75 lakh Ha. the net irrigated area is 20.90 lakh Ha. The NRAA is a policy making and advisory body aimed at bringing coordination and synergy among watershed programmes. Its mandate does not include creation of assured irrigation potential. However, the Government has already taken up various watershed development programmes through which water harvesting and moisture conservation measures are taken up along with other activities to provide life saving and supplementary irrigation. In the state under watershed programmes. 11.26 lakh Ha. area has been developed at a cost of Rs. 531.12 crores.

Sale of cereals, pulses and coarse grains below MSP

3984. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of farmers are even now selling their harvest of cereals, pulses, coarse grains and oil seeds at prices below the MSP;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have discouraged the production of pulses and oil seeds in the country by not making an increase in their MSP; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government fixes the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of the State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of MSPs. The MSP thus fixed is a guaranteed minimum price which the farmers are offered by the designated Central and State agencies in the event market prices tend to fall below that level. However, if the market price is more than the MSP fixed by the

Government, farmers are free to realize a higher price by selling their produce in the open market.

With the amendment of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act for deregulation of the marketing system, the farmers now have more options to sell their produce to the prospective buyers.

(c) and (d) Between 2000-01 and 2006-07 MSP of pulses has been raised by a minimum of Rs. 210 per quintal in the case of Arhar (Tur) and a maximum of Rs. 345 per quintal in the case of Gram and Lentil (Masur). With regard to Oilseeds, the MSP has been raised by a minimum of Rs. 125 per quintal in the case of Soyabean (Black) and a maximum of Rs. 515 per quintal for Rapeseed/Mustard. During the same period production of pulses has been estimated to have increased to 14.10 million tonnes in 2006-07 from 11.07 million tonnes in 2000-01. The production of oilseeds has also been estimated to have increased to 232.64 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 from 184.4 lakh tonnes in 2000-01.

Quality of seeds

3985. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that good quality of seeds are not reaching to the farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this problem has stagnated the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. As reported by States the Certified/ Quality Seeds made available to the farmers during 2006-07 is 1,48,18,034 quintals against the demand of 1,28,76,392 quintals.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Special package for goat and piggery development in Kerala

3986. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: